Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

erve
1
2 F

JUN 20 1950

Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

VOLUME 60 NUMBER 25

W O O L (Page 604)

A L M O N D S (Page 611)

U.S. Foreign Trade in Agricultural Products During April, 1950 (Page 608)

FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

JUNE 19, 1950

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
☆ JUL 11 1950 ☆
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CONTENTS

Page

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

Near-Record Cotton Crop Expected in Egypt.................. 628
Mexico's Cotton Acreage Increased Again.................. 629
Cotton Consumption Increasing in Greece.................. 630
Cotton-Price Quotations on World Markets.................. 631

FATS AND OILS

Italian Oilseed Production Decreases in 1949.................. 616
Indonesia's May Copra Exports Exceed Earlier Months of 1950....... 618
U.S. Fats and Oils Imports Greater Than in 1949.................. 620
Dominican Republic Increases Import Duties on Edible Fats.......... 621
U.K. Trade in Specified Fats and Oils.................. 621
International Oil Culture Federation Meets at Tunis.................. 623

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND NUTS

Mediterranean Almond Forecast Above Average.................. 611

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

India's Winter Grain Crops Larger.................. 604
Mexico Reports Large Wheat Crop.................. 604
Iran Expects Near-Average Wheat Crop.................. 625
Brazil Sets Minimum Price for 1950 Wheat Crop.................. 625
Burmese Government Recovers Rice Stocks.................. 626
Panama's Rice Production Sufficient for Needs.................. 626
Paraguay Implements Plans to Increase Rice Production.................. 627
Burma's Rice Exports Reduced Sharply.................. 627

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

World Wool Production Continues to Increase in 1950.................. 604

TOBACCO

Ireland's Tobacco Imports and Consumption at Record Level.......... 615
Turkey's Tobacco Production and Exports at Record Level.......... 615
Haiti's Tobacco Imports and Production Up.................. 616

TROPICAL PRODUCTS

Haiti's Essential Oils Industry Expanding.................. 632
Indonesia Forecasts Higher Coffee Production.................. 633

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

LATE NEWS

The fifth official estimate of the 1949-50 cotton crop in the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil, is equivalent to only 790,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross weight). Production in other States of South Brazil is estimated unofficially at 115,000 bales (part of it is ginned and classed in Sao Paulo). Production in North Brazil, harvested late in 1949, is still estimated at 450,000 bales. This makes a 1949-50 total for all Brazil of 1,355,000 bales, compared with the latest previous estimate of 1,565,000 bales and an early estimate (based on seed distribution) of 1,800,000 bales.

Both quantity and quality of the crop have been severely reduced by excessive rain during the picking season. The surplus available for export from the South Brazil crop (picked March through June) may not exceed 450,000 bales. Stocks available for export at the beginning of the season, March 1, 1950, were nearly exhausted.

- - - - - -

Philippine copra exports during May 1950 were as follows (in long tons): United States - Pacific 14,094, Atlantic 4,100, Gulf 4,194; Canada 2,300; Belgium 1,500; Ireland 700; Italy 1,800; Netherlands 4,000;

(Continued on Page 633)

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to inform producers, processors, distributors and consumers of farm products of current developments abroad in the crop and livestock industries, foreign trends in prices and consumption of farm products, and world agricultural trade. Circulation of this periodical is free to those needing the information it contains in farming, business and professional operations. Issued by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

WORLD WOOL PRODUCTION CONTINUES TO INCREASE IN 1950 1/

World wool production in 1950 is estimated at 3.9 billion pounds, an increase of nearly 100 million pounds over the revised 1949 total, according to information available to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. The estimate is only 55 million pounds or 3 percent below the 1936-40 average.

Economic and physical conditions in the major wool producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere are favorable for increased production, but the upper limit of production is being approached.

Sheep numbers and wool production in Europe have nearly attained their prewar levels and further increases are expected. The record prices for wool during the past year have caused all minor producing countries of the world to increase wool production to the limit. Conditions are not conducive to increases in Canada and the United States where decreases in sheep numbers, due largely to the favorable prices offered for lamb and sheep for slaughter and to the competition of other farm enterprises, continued during the year. In most other areas economic conditions are currently favorable.

In Australia, by far the most important wool producing country of the world, production has been increasing since the postwar low of 933 million pounds in 1945 when effects of the widespread drought were felt. The sheep number level has been regained since the drought and are estimated at 115 million head in March, 1950. Flocks are in good condition as winter approaches and moisture and feed conditions are favorable. If these conditions continue through the winter the 1950 clip should surpass the 1941-45 average.

Reports from New Zealand indicate a reversal of the down swing in sheep numbers that has been under way since 1945. With the large lamb crop this season, some increase is to be expected in wool production in the current shearing season and in the following 2 seasons at least. The sheep industry in New Zealand is more stable than in Australia and the Union of South Africa. Weather is not a limiting factor to the degree that it is in the latter countries.

In the Union of South Africa prospects of any increase in wool production appear doubtful as result of drought conditions during 1949. Present estimates place production in both 1949 and 1950 somewhat below 1948. However, in view of the high price for wool, a determined effort

---

Based upon estimates of the spring clip in the Northern Hemisphere combined with that produced in the season beginning July 1 or October 1 of the same year in the Southern Hemisphere. Pulled wool is included for most countries at its greasy equivalent. World wool production is summarized twice each year. The next summary will be in November at which time the outturn of the clip will be revised.

1/ A more extensive statement is obtainable from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

WOOL: Production in specified countries, greasy basis, averages, 1936-49 and 1941-45, annual 1946-1950 1/

Continent and country	Averages 1936-40	Averages 1941-45	1946	1947	1948 2/	1949 2/	1950 2/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
NORTH AMERICA							
Canada	15.6	17.7	16.7	14.1	11.9	9.8	9.0
United States							
Shorn	360.6	360.2	280.5	252.8	233.9	217.0	212.0
Pulled	64.7	68.3	61.3	56.0	46.6	36.4	35.0
Total	425.3	428.5	341.8	309.4	280.5	253.4	247.0
Estimated total 3/	451.7	457.3	369.7	334.7	305.2	273.5	265.5
EUROPE							
Austria	2.1	2.7	2.5	2.6	3.1	3.6	3.0
Bulgaria	28.7	26.4 4/	21.9 4/	25.7 4/	28.6 4/	30.0	-
Eire	17.2	15.9	14.5	13.3	12.2	12.0	13.0
Finland	2.7	1.9	3.4	3.0	3.7	4.0	5.0
France 5/	37.1	27.3	26.5	28.6	29.3	32.6	35.0
Germany 6/	31.7 7/	35.5	25.7	25.4	26.8	29.0	27.0
Greece	19.3	12.8	14.5	16.9	17.3	17.1	16.5
Hungary	12.9	8.9	3.3	4.0	5.0	5.5	6.0
Italy	30.4	27.5	24.7	27.0	30.0	35.3	37.0
Netherlands	6.2	4.9	5.4	4.6	4.6	6.2	6.5
Norway	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	6.0
Poland 6/	6.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Portugal	16.3	17.2	17.6	18.0	18.0	17.0	15.0
Rumania 6/	40.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spain	70.0	83.0	79.0	77.0	88.0	72.6	70.0
United Kingdom	110.1	88.6	87.5	71.8	75.0	82.5	85.0
Yugoslavia	34.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated total (excl. U.S.S.R.) 7/	483.4	446.0	400.5	397.1	431.3	443.7	453.6
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia) 6/ 8/	310.2 7/	279.7	287.2	285.8	304.6	314.9	325.0

ASIA							
Iran	36.3	29.6	29.5	30.0	29.8	24.7	26.0
Iraq	21.6	21.1	24.2	24.2	32.7	26.7	28.7
Syria	10/ 10.7	11.0	13.3	12.7	12.1	10.0	12.0
Turkey	67.7	67.9	68.8	71.2	75.5	76.0	78.0
Afghanistan	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	17.0	17.2	18.0
China 11/	88.0	81.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	75.0
India	12/ 72.9	12/ 79.0	54.5	54.5	53.0	54.5	55.0
Pakistan	-		26.0	26.0	26.0	26.0	30.0
Estimated total (excl. U.S.S.R.) 13/	344.2	336.7	339.6	341.8	354.5	353.1	365.7
SOUTH AMERICA							
Argentina 14/	411.0	505.8	515.0	475.0	419.0	420.0	430.0
Brazil 15/	35.5	37.6	44.8	48.0	45.2	48.5	49.0
Chile	32.6	36.4	38.6	39.2	41.9	46.3	50.0
Falkland Islands	4.0	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.0
Peru	19.4	17.6	17.6	15.9	17.2	18.7	19.0
Uruguay	126.2	144.1	176.0	158.7	147.7	154.3	150.0
Estimated total 16/	638.9	757.4	809.5	754.3	689.0	706.3	715.6
AFRICA							
Algeria	22.6	22.6	19.8	13.8	13.2	14.0	19.0
Egypt	7.5	5.9	5.6	5.6	7.7	6.4	8.0
French Morocco	35.1	39.4	20.0	25.0	28.0	30.0	33.0
Libya	-	3.2	3.4	3.4	1.0	1.7	1.6
Tunisia	12.0	12.9	11.8	11.0	7.9	8.0	11.0
Union of South Africa 17/	252.3	234.4	210.0	205.2	219.0	214.0	210.0
Estimated total 18/	336.8	322.3	274.4	267.8	280.6	277.9	286.4
OCEANIA							
Australia	1,051.9	1,088.0	976.8	973.0	1,031.0	1,045.5	1,100.0
New Zealand	313.8	350.4	367.0	362.0	367.0	370.0	375.0
Total	1,365.9	1,438.5	1,353.9	1,335.1	1,398.1	1,415.6	1,475.1
Estimated world total 19/	3,930.0	4,040.0	3,820.0	3,720.0	3,760.0	3,790.0	3,890.0

1/ For summary purposes wool produced mostly in the spring in the Northern Hemisphere is combined with that produced in the season beginning July 1 or October 1 of the same year in the Southern Hemisphere. Pulled wool is included for most countries at its greasy equivalent. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Includes estimates for Mexico, Newfoundland, Netherlands West Indies, Guatemala and El Salvador. 4/ Includes Southern Dobrudja beginning 1944. 5/ Data for years 1945 and 1946 not comparable with prewar and 1947. 6/ Based on present boundaries. 7/ Two years average (1944 and 1945). 8/ Includes estimates for Albania and for countries producing 2 million pounds or less, namely Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Iceland, Sweden and Switzerland. 9/ Based on the number of sheep and an average fleece weight of 4.7 pounds per head. 10/ Includes Lebanon. 11/ Includes China proper (22 provinces), Manchuria, Jehol and Sinkiang (Turkestan). Figures for postwar years of 75 million pounds used only to indicate approximate level. 12/ Includes Pakistan. 13/ Includes estimates for Cyprus, Palestine and Transjordan, Outer Mongolia, Tibet and Nepal. 14/ Based on estimates of the Buenos Aires Branch, First National Bank of Boston through 1947. 15/ Estimates based largely on production in Rio Grande do Sul, which produces about 80 percent of the total. 16/ Includes relatively small production in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Venezuela. 17/ Union of South Africa, Union Protectorates and South West Africa. 18/ Includes estimates for Kenya, French West Africa and Togo. 19/ Rounded to tens of millions.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information. Estimates for countries having changed boundaries have been adjusted to present boundaries except as noted. June 19, 1950.

will be made by wool growers to maintain their flocks and the final results in 1950 possibly will not be very much below last year. One factor limiting wool production in South Africa is the increase in goats and non-wool sheep to the detriment of merinos, particularly in Karakul sheep because of high prices for Karakul pelts.

Present high prices and the favorable long-range outlook offer an incentive for increasing sheep numbers and wool production in Argentina. Labor shortages and drought in recent years have hindered such expansion, but some increase in numbers apparently occurred following the 1949 lambing, and a further upward trend is expected.

Conditions of sheep entering the 1950 winter are considered reasonably good, and if the winter proves favorable, the expected increase should materialize. Most of the expansion in sheep numbers are in those producing fine crossbred wool.

It is reported that some overstocking of both sheep and cattle exist in Uruguay and that competition between the two is not favorable to an increase in sheep numbers and in wool production, even though wool is the chief dollar earner. Some exports of sheep to Brazil has taken place to relieve overstocking.

In the United States and Canada, the chief wool producing countries of North America, the production of wool is still much below recent years, There is some indication, however, in both countries that the bottom is near in the decline in sheep numbers.

The great areas of North Africa, the Near East and Far east, the U.S.S.R., China and India, produce coarse or carpet wools predominately. Although information is fragmentary as to indigenous production in most of these areas, more and better quality wool is entering international commercial channels and the trend in wool production is definitely upward.

There has been a gradual rehabilitation of flocks in Europe and wool production is now approaching the 1936-40 average. In the United Kingdom and Ireland some improvement has been made since the adverse winter of 1946-47 and now is nearly up to the 1946 level.

Spain, the second most important wool producing country in Europe has experienced severe drought in the past year, but production is still up to the 1936-40 average.

Both Italy and France have shown improvement and the generally favorable weather in Central and Eastern Europe has made possible increases up to prewar levels.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled articles on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report, the Committee was composed of Clarence M. Purves, Acting Chairman, Floyd E. Davis, Eugene T. Ransom and Mary E. Long.

U. S. FOREIGN TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS DURING APRIL 1950 1/

United States exports of agricultural products during April, the tenth month of the 1949-50 fiscal year, were valued at $234,415,000 a reduction of $26,277,000 compared with March exports and of $107,558,000 compared with exports during the corresponding month a year ago. The nation's exports of all commodities, both agricultural and nonagricultural, were valued at $798,742,000 during April. Agricultural products accounted for 29 percent of the total.

Cotton continued to hold first place in value of agricultural exports during the month, the total amounting to $78,369,000. This total represents a reduction of 29 percent compared with the value of the March exports and of 22 percent compared with exports during April last year. Wheat and wheat flour exports, valued at $53,745,000, continued in second position, although at a substantially reduced level compared with April a year ago. Leaf tobacco was the third most important agricultural export during the month under review, the total amounting to $18,833,000. This total represents an increase of 48 percent compared with the value of the March exports of tobacco and 69 percent compared with those of April last year.

On a quantitative basis, the outstanding features of the April agricultural exports, compared with those for the same month a year ago, were the large increases in exports of dried eggs, pork, fresh apples and pears, hops, soya flour, tobacco and white potatoes. On the other hand, the figures reveal large or substantial quantitative reductions for exports of dairy products, beef and veal, horse meat, lard, tallow, cotton, citrus fruit, prunes, raisins and currants, wheat and wheat flour, barley, corn, grain sorghums, rice, peanuts, soybeans, soybean oil, and dried peas and beans.

United States imports of agricultural products during April 1950 were valued at $262,829,000 compared with $305,941,000 in the preceding month and with $226,939,000 in April last year. The nation's imports of all commodities, both agricultural and nonagricultural, were valued at $571,728,000 during the month under review. Agricultural products accounted for almost 46 percent of the total. Heading the list and far in the lead of any other commodity were coffee, sugar, rubber and wool. In April 1950, the United States was a net importer of agricultural products to the extent of $28,414,000 while in April a year ago it was a net exporter to the extent of $115,034,000.

On a quantitative basis, the outstanding features revealed by the April import figures, compared with April 1949, were the large increases in imports of casein and lactarene, hides and skins, canned beef, wool, cotton, apples, olives, pineapples, castor beans, copra and coconut oil, palm oil, tung oil, rubber, sisal and henequen. Also outstanding, were the large reductions in imports of jute and jute butts, shelled almonds, Brazil nuts, coconut meat, fresh tomatoes, coffee, and cocoa or cacao beans.

1/ The publication, U.S. Foreign Trade in Agricultural Products, containing fuller trade data than this summary presents, is published regularly and distributed free upon request by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

UNITED STATES: Summary of exports, domestic, of selected agricultural products, during April 1949 and 1950

Commodity exported	Unit	April			
		Quantity		Value	
		1949	1950	1949	1950
				1,000	1,000
ANIMAL PRODUCTS:		Thousands	Thousands	dollars	dollars
Butter	Lb.	585	276	392	186
Cheese	Lb.	7,332	292	2,581	137
Milk, condensed	Lb.	9,901	3,918	2,060	867
Milk, whole, dried	Lb.	6,666	5,088	3,459	2,355
Nonfat dry milk solids	Lb.	26,248	23,177	3,387	2,906
Milk, evaporated	Lb.	20,971	16,275	2,860	1,940
Eggs, dried	Lb.	1,784	3,141	1,293	1,666
Beef and veal, total 1/	Lb.	2,388	1,433	808	541
Pork, total 1/	Lb.	3,866	5,145	1,114	1,392
Horse meat	Lb.	3,523	1,117	592	123
Lard (including neutral)	Lb.	92,304	34,873	14,043	4,092
Tallow, edible and inedible	Lb.	58,255	30,878	5,935	2,292
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Cotton, unmfd, excl. linters (480 lb.)	Bale	611	488	100,138	78,369
Apples, fresh	Lb.	5,052	11,056	379	749
Grapefruit, fresh	Lb.	17,786	8,488	762	453
Oranges, fresh	Lb.	35,964	29,022	1,866	1,689
Pears, fresh	Lb.	336	903	38	93
Prunes, dried	Lb.	26,748	20,274	2,586	2,071
Raisins and currants	Lb.	16,232	10,501	1,213	1,016
Fruits, canned	Lb.	6,240	6,307	962	829
Fruit juices	Gal.	1,617	1,672	1,261	1,726
Barley, grain (48 lb.)	Bu.	1,057	10	1,539	11
Barley malt (34 lb.)	Bu.	332	241	916	591
Corn, grain (56 lb.)	Bu.	11,201	5,863	18,188	9,053
Grain sorghums (56 lb.)	Bu.	2,835	207	4,279	251
Rice, milled, brown, etc.	Lb.	110,722	27,727	9,520	2,129
Wheat, grain (60 lb.)	Bu.	23,020	21,223	57,802	44,531
Flour, wholly of U.S. wheat (100 lb.)	Bag	2,901	1,862	14,939	7,230
Flour, other (100 lb.)	Bag	143	374	870	1,984
Hops	Lb.	596	1,403	442	1,070
Peanuts, shelled	Lb.	32,022	26,996	4,293	2,272
Soybeans (except canned)	Lb.	276,530	96,694	12,523	4,255
Soybean oil, crude and refined	Lb.	59,749	16,969	9,854	2,080
Soya flour	Lb.	95	2,777	5	113
Seeds, field and garden	Lb.	1,923	2,176	539	596
Tobacco, bright flue-cured	Lb.	13,189	34,138	7,501	13,654
Tobacco, leaf, other	Lb.	7,676	9,809	3,671	5,179
Beans, dried	Lb.	10,482	4,116	962	307
Peas, dried	Lb.	2,001	1,461	173	91
Potatoes, white	Lb.	16,462	154,006	627	880
Vegetables, canned	Lb.	4,213	4,794	613	611
Total above				296,985	202,380
Food exported for relief, etc.				1,250	1,133
Other agricultural products				43,738	30,902
Total agricultural				341,973	234,415
Total all commodities				1,155,997	798,742

1/ Product weight. Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

UNITED STATES: Summary of imports for consumption of selected agricultural products during April 1949 and 1950

Commodity imported SUPPLEMENTARY	Unit	April			
		Quantity		Value	
		1949	1950	1949	1950
ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS:		Thousands	Thousands	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars
Cattle, dutiable	No.	26	29	3,066	4,120
Cattle, free (for breeding)	No.	2	2	498	586
Casein and lactarene	Lb.	999	4,143	163	619
Cheese	Lb.	2,393	2,806	1,277	1,222
Hides and skins	Lb.	10,154	18,249	5,244	7,214
Beef canned, incl. corned	Lb.	2,866	6,096	926	2,011
Wool, unmfd, excl. free, etc.	Lb.	12,640	23,244	6,737	14,278
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Cotton, unmfd., excl. linters (480 lb.)	Bale	4	8	439	883
Jute and jute butts, unmfd. (2,240 lb.)	Ton	13	7	5,296	1,994
Apples, green or ripe (50 lb.)	Bu.	52	220	166	534
Olives in brine	Gal.	870	1,605	1,961	2,456
Pineapples, prep. or preserved	Lb.	5,110	8,101	554	955
Barley malt	Lb.	8,099	7,361	399	355
Hops	Lb.	182	167	185	173
Almonds, shelled	Lb.	614	131	203	45
Brazil or cream nuts, not shelled	Lb.	162	0	48	0
Cashew nuts	Lb.	4,021	3,604	1,576	1,145
Coconut meat, shredded, etc.	Lb.	8,082	2,576	1,360	1,372
Castor beans	Lb.	14,260	26,523	772	1,382
Copra	Lb.	45,353	58,184	3,822	5,008
Flaxseed (56 lb.)	Bu.	13	0	72	0
Coconut oil	Lb.	2,330	7,787	264	1,021
Palm oil	Lb.	1,805	3,081	217	349
Tung oil	Lb.	2,482	9,812	454	2,158
Sugar, excl. beet (2,000 lb.)	Ton	361	308	35,293	30,393
Molasses, unfit for human consumption	Gal.	39,389	41,868	1,832	2,456
Tobacco, cigarette leaf	Lb.	4,875	4,790	3,475	3,321
Tobacco, other leaf	Lb.	1,641	1,258	2,252	1,937
Potatoes, white	Lb.	76,298	72,594	1,853	1,428
Tomatoes, natural state	Lb.	49,689	18,887	3,958	1,049
COMPLEMENTARY					
Wool, unmfd., free in bond	Lb.	11,870	33,720	4,076	13,647
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Bananas	Bunch	5,496	4,506	4,834	4,782
Coffee (ex. into Puerto Rico)	Lb.	234,731	149,301	58,760	64,126
Cocoa or cacao beans and shells	Lb.	59,725	44,431	10,578	10,311
Tea	Lb.	9,774	9,550	5,044	4,967
Spices (complementary)	Lb.	6,144	7,297	3,460	5,125
Sisal and henequen (2,240 lb.)	Ton	8	14	2,474	3,330
Rubber, crude	Lb.	113,395	172,454	19,387	29,659
Total above				192,975	226,411
Other agricultural products				33,964	36,418
Total agricultural products				226,939	262,829
Total all commodities				526,895	571,728

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

MEDITERRANEAN ALMOND FORECAST ABOVE AVERAGE [1]

The 1950 preliminary forecast of shelled almond production in the 6 leading foreign commercial producing countries is 81,200 short tons compared with 60,300 tons (revised) in 1949 and 54,000 tons in 1948. The forecast exceeds the 10-year (1939-48) average of 64,300 tons by 26 percent and the 5-year (1944-48) average of 69,000 tons by 18 percent. It is the largest forecast since 1945 when 89,700 tons were produced.

Italy, the world's leading producer of shelled almonds has the largest crop since 1945. All other countries except Iran have larger crops or crops equal to that of last year. The prospects in Spain indicate a crop the size of the recent record crop of 1945. The United States crop according to the June 1 condition figure will be considerably below last year.

Growing conditions in this group of countries with the exception of Iran have been very satisfactory so far this season. In most countries January and February were mild, and blossoming took place slightly earlier than normal. Blossoming was completed before the wet, cold weather of March, April, and May with the result that very little damage was done. In Iran, severe frosts late in the blossoming period did considerable damage. All countries report ample soil moisture to carry the set through to a good harvest.

It is estimated that about 10,400 short tons of 1949 almonds remain unsold on June 1; 5,800 short tons in Italy; 3,300 tons in Spain; 700 tons in Iran; and 600 tons in Portugal. The carry-over on June 1 represents approximately 17 percent of the 1949 harvest. The present stocks are less than half those at the same time last season. The Trade in all countries anticipates being able to sell all remaining stocks before new-crop nuts come to market this fall. If this actually happens it will be the first time in the postwar period.

The export season now coming to a close, while being much different than a normal prewar year, was nevertheless rather successful. The Trade in some countries was not entirely satisfied with their share of the export business nor with prices. The entry of Germany into the Mediterranean almond market was welcomed, especially by Italian exporters. The removal of all import restrictions by the United Kingdom early in May brought a revival of exports in Italy, Spain, and Portugal. France purchased more almonds abroad than normal in the postwar period. The Scandinavian and Low Countries also purchased more almonds than they did a year ago. The United States imports of foreign almonds were considerably below those of the previous year. Official export statistics for all countries are not yet available, but it appears that the principal buyer of Mediterranean almonds during the season was the United Kingdom, followed by France.

---

[1] A more extensive statement may be obtained from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

ALMONDS, SHELLED: Estimated commercial production in specified countries, 1950 with comparisons

(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Year	France	French Morocco	Iran	Italy	Portugal	Spain	Foreign total	United States unshelled
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Average								
1939-48	700	2,200	6,700	28,300	2,500	23,900	64,300	23,300
1944-48	900	2,200	6,500	34,200	2,300	22,900	69,000	30,400
Annual								
1945	500	3,300	6,600	50,600	2,300	26,400	89,700	27,200
1946	700	2,400	7,700	33,000	3,700	24,200	71,700	37,800
1947	1,000	1,200	6,000	46,200	1,100	22,000	77,500	29,200
1948	1,100	3,300	7,000	18,700	2,900	21,000	54,000	34,000
1949 1/	300	1,900	7,700	2/ 24,300	4,200	21,900	60,300	39,000
1950 1/	1,200	3,300	6,100	40,000	4,200	26,400	81,200	3/

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Revised.

3/ Condition on June 1--59 percent compared with 74 percent on June 1, 1949.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U. S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research, and other information.

UNITED STATES: Imports for consumption of shelled and unshelled almonds

(Crop year, September-August)

Year	French Morocco	Italy	Portugal	Spain	Other countries	Total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
				SHELLED		
Average:						
1939/40-1948/49	16	1,257	517	2,578	175	4,543
1944/45-1948/49	21	2,422	479	3,642	51	6,615
Annual:						
1943-44	0	0	1,271	6,930	53	8,254
1944-45	15	0	1,218	8,061	31	9,325
1945-46	28	1,508	688	7,140	73	9,437
1946-47	34	2,054	187	950	76	3,301
1947-48	27	4,179	98	1,805	26	6,135
1948-49	0	4,370	206	255	47	4,878
1949-50 1/	20	512	10	0	2/	542
				UNSHELLED		
Average:						
1939/40-1948/49	0	2	3	100	1	106
1944/45-1948/49	0	3	2	116	3	124
Annual:						
1943-44	0	0	14	425	0	439
1944-45	0	0	11	170	0	181
1945-46	0	0	0	263	5	268
1946-47	0	6	0	145	6	157
1947-48	0	9	0	0	2/	9
1948-49	0	2	0	0	1	3
1949-50 1/	0	2/	0	0	2/	2/

1/ 8 months, September through April.
2/ Less than one-half ton.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

The outlet for the 1950-51 export season in the Mediterranean in general appears somewhat brighter at this time than it has for some years. The Trade in almost all countries is very optimistic about the prospects. The return to a free trade on the part of the British is looked upon as the largest single factor, favorable to moving the 1950 harvest. The reappearance of Germany in Mediterranean Basin almond markets is also a very important factor in the coming season. The flow of import-export trade between the countries is increasing and more and more obstacles hindering trade are being removed. The credit situation between many of the countries in Western Europe appears to be easing, thereby facilitating trade.

The reports of an anticipated small California almond crop which appear to have emanated from various United States trade sources and which have been flooding Europe, have raised the hopes of exporters abroad. They believe a small California crop will result in fewer bar-type almonds being produced in the United States which in turn will mean a considerable increase in imports of that type over the small tonnage of the season now closing. In this same connection it must be pointed out that prior to the re-entry of Germany in the almond market of the Mediterranean most exporters were none too happy about the bar-type business with the United States although substantial tonnages were exported. In order to fill the United States orders for bar-type almonds, considerable tonnages of nuts had to be graded to obtain the small kernels. This left the larger sizes to be sold to other markets, which although possible and accomplished was considered by most exporters as an unnecessary risk. The German business expected this coming season greatly reduces such risks and gives the exporters a better bargaining position. The Trade abroad anticipate being able to offer sufficient bar-type to meet all likely demand, at prices that will be attractive. They are further enthused by the current optimistic business reports for the United States and feel that it will result in heavier nut consumption in that country. The slow market for some nuts in the United States during the past season seems to be completely discounted.

There are the usual early-season rumors with regard to what the Spanish Government will do about decontrolling almonds, removal of countervailing duties by the United States, and revaluation of the Spanish peseta. At this time there is nothing tangible to indicate what will develop in regard to these rumors, but recently 1,400 pounds of Spanish almonds were exported to the United States, the first since November, 1948. This small shipment may be an indication of larger shipments later, but on the other hand it may only be a small lot being transshipped via the United States.

The current forecast of almond production is based in part upon a study in the Mediterranean area by Walter R. Schreiber, Agricultural Economist during March, April and May, 1950 under the Research and Marketing Act program, U. S. Department of Agriculture. It also is based in part upon reports from U. S. Foreign Service reports from the area.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

TOBACCO

IRELAND'S TOBACCO IMPORTS AND CONSUMPTION AT RECORD LEVEL

Ireland's imports of leaf tobacco and consumption of tobacco products reached record levels in 1949, according to the American Legation in Dublin.

Imports of leaf during 1949 totaled 24.0 million pounds, compared with 12.5 million in 1948 and 14.4 million in 1947. A total of 23.1 million pounds, or about 96 percent of Ireland's 1949 leaf imports came from the United States. Other sources of supply include British East Africa, Southern Rhodesia and India. In addition to leaf, Ireland in 1949 imported 12,318 pounds of cigars, 310,405 pounds of cigarettes, 137 pounds of Cavendish or Negrohead and 7,194 pounds of other manufactured tobacco. The United Kingdom was the principal source of supply of manufactured tobacco products.

Domestic consumption of manufactured tobacco products was at the highest level on record in 1949, totaling approximately 14.1 million pounds. This compares with 13.3 million pounds in 1948. Cigarettes accounted for about 11.0 million pounds, or nearly 80 percent of the total quantity of tobacco consumed in 1949. It is reliably stated that tobacco consumption would be substantially higher if the trade were freed of certain restrictions still deemed necessary because of the shortage of dollar exchange available for the purchase of United States leaf. It is reported that tobacco consumers are becoming increasingly fastidious in the quality of tobacco products demanded and are resisting obscure brands which sold readily under the conditions of extremely short supply which existed during certain of the war and early postwar years.

TURKEY'S TOBACCO PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS AT RECORD LEVEL

Turkey's production and exports of leaf tobacco reached record levels in 1949, according to the American Embassy in Ankara.

The country's 1949 production of leaf is estimated by the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture at approximately 268 million pounds. This compares with 163 million in 1948 and the previous record crop of 220 million pounds in 1947. This estimate of the 1949 crop is much larger than earlier forecasts and is also higher than certain unofficial estimates and thus it may be subject to some revision.

Exports of leaf in 1949 totaled 171.1 million pounds, compared with 109.3 million in 1948 and 93.2 million in 1947. Germany was the most important export outlet in 1949, taking 43.8 million pounds, or 26 percent of the total. The United States was the second most important outlet, taking 36.8 million pounds in 1949. The United Kingdom ranked third as an export market for Turkey's leaf, taking 16.9 million pounds in 1949. Other countries taking substantial quantities of leaf from Turkey in 1949 include Egypt, Canada, France, the Netherlands and Czechoslovakia.

HAITI'S TOBACCO IMPORTS AND PRODUCTION UP

Haiti's 1948-49 imports of leaf tobacco are placed at 14 percent above the 1947-48 level, according to the American Embassy in Port-au-Prince. Production of leaf tobacco in 1948-49 is unofficially estimated at approximately 30 percent above 1947-48.

The country's imports of leaf totaled 168,150 pounds for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1949, compared with 147,960 pounds in 1947-48 and 185,450 pounds in 1946-47. In addition, Haiti imported in 1948-49 about 73,800 cigars, 70,262,000 cigarettes and about 220,000 pounds of other tobacco products (principally granulated or cut, blended cigarette tobacco). This compares with 1947-48 imports as follows: cigars, 57,900 pieces; cigarettes, 120,500,000 pieces and other tobacco products, 126,900 pounds. Practically all imports of leaf, cigarettes and granulated or cut tobacco comes from the United States. Cigar imports come principally from Cuba, the Dominican Republic and the United States.

Leaf production statistics are not available in Haiti, but the country's 1948-49 crop is unofficially estimated at approximately 8,800,000 pounds, compared with about 6,600,000 pounds in 1947-48. Domestic production is principally of dark, air-cured cigar types, but it is reported that increasing quantities of brownish, air-cured leaf are now being produced. Tobacco is grown on thousands of small individually owned farms in all sections of the country. The principal producing areas, however, are located in the Department du Nord Ouest and in du Nord. In recent years, about 75 percent of the country's total production has come from these districts.

FATS AND OILS

ITALIAN OILSEED PRODUCTION DECREASES IN 1949

Italian oilseed production decreased in 1949 to 50,600 short tons or 23 percent less than in 1948, and prospects indicate a further drop in 1950, according to the American Embassy, Rome. Declining prices and dry weather were responsible for the decrease.

ITALY: Oilseeds production, 1949 with comparisons

(Short tons)

Oilseed	Average 1935-39	1947	1948	1949 1/
Rapeseed	2/ 2,180	22,950	23,580	12,400
Peanuts	2/ 1,640	7,940	7,170	6,880
Sunflower seed	2/ 25	12,350	8,060	7,480
Sesame seed	2/ 440	730	480	540
Soybeans	2/ 16	4,490	3,200	1,560
Castor beans	2/ 3,600	4,680	3,220	2,430
Flaxseed	5,670	12,720	13,190	12,640
Hempseed	3,470	2,990	2,710	3,460
Cottonseed 3/	9,370	5,680	4,440	3,210

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Average of less than 5 years.
3/ Commercial production.

American Embassy, Rome.

Though on the whole, the climate and soil conditions of Italy are not well suited to growing oilseeds, plantings of edible oilseeds during the immediate postwar period rose from an average of 7,900 acres during 1936-39 to a high of 96,880 acres in 1947 and were still 82,500 acres in 1948 and 64,670 acres in 1949. Peak plantings and production during 1947 were due to exceptionally high prices. Plantings during 1950 are expected to be about 10 percent below 1949 because Italian farmers are inclined to abandon some cultivation due to a weaker market in the face of relatively high production costs.

Vegetable oil (excluding olive oil) production in 1949 amounted to 57,700 tons, 1 percent above 1948 and 46 percent above 1947 but still almost one-third below 1938. In general, seed oil production in Italy varies according to the size of the domestic olive crop with imported oilseeds and raw oil used to balance requirements. In June 1948 when it became apparent that the 1948 olive crop was going to be short and of poor quality, seed oil production was immediately increased and output during the first 5 months of 1949 was 40 percent higher than during the same period of 1948. Conversely, in June 1949 when a good olive crop was in prospect, seed oil production began to decline and during the last 6 months was 17 percent below the comparable period of 1948.

The average quantity of seed oil placed on the market for the years 1939-40 to 1948-49 was almost equally divided between edible and industrial oils. However, the ratio between edible and industrial seed oils during 1948-49 was almost 6 to 1. The carry-over of seed oil at the end of the fiscal year 1948-49 is estimated at almost 14,330 tons, the highest during the 1939/40-1948/49 period, indicating that production during 1948-49 was well in excess of domestic requirements.

With the short 1948 olive crop the Italian Government found it necessary to fulfill its fats and oils requirements through increased imports of both oilseeds and oils. During 1949, Italy imported more than twice the volume of oilseeds imported in 1948 (101,370 against 48,300 tons) with the greatest increase in soybeans, flaxseed and shelled peanuts. Imports of edible oil rose from 4,300 tons in 1948 to 59,670 tons in 1949. Oilseed exports also rose--from 1,400 tons in 1948 to 3,400 in 1949.

Except for India, which is a traditional source of Italian oilseed imports, the countries of origin in 1949 changed considerably from 1938. Whereas in 1938 India, Argentina, Rumania, and Manchuria accounted for 88 percent of Italian oilseed imports, in 1949 the United States, Eritrea, Turkey, and India (in the order of their relative importance) accounted for almost 66 percent of the total.

The 1949 seed oil availability was unofficially estimated at about 181,880 tons with about 98,000 tons or 54 percent for human consumption. Thus the per capita availability amounted to about 4.2 pounds compared with the 1936-39 average of 3.7 pounds annually.

Prices of seed oil on the three representative markets of Milan, Leghorn, and Turin dropped by about 50 percent from January to December 1949. The greatest drops occurred during April and again in July. The April decline was due to an increased volume of pork fats and increased imports of oilseeds and vegetable oils. The reduction in July was the consequence of the new oil produced from the 1949 oilseed crop and the seasonal lull in sales.

After reaching their lowest point during December, prices began to rally during January 1950. Recent further price increases were due to higher manufacturing taxes.

INDONESIA'S MAY COPRA EXPORTS EXCEED EARLIER MONTHS OF 1950

Indonesian copra exports during May of 31,494 long tons were considerably larger than in any previous month of 1950. Shipments more than doubled those of April and exceeded May 1949 by 43 percent. Almost 80 percent of the total was destined to the Netherlands and the remainder to Western Germany.

January-May accumulated exports amounted to 98,576 tons, 25 percent less than in the comparable period of 1949. A revision in the March exports to 16,270 tons (8,770 to the Netherlands and 7,500 to Germany) changes the January-April total to 67,082 tons.

Copra production dropped to about 29,660 tons in May after reaching a high for the year of almost 52,870 in April.

Deliveries to domestic oil factories during May amounted to approximately 8,690 tons. June and July exports are forecast at 24,600 and 19,680 tons, respectively.

Buying prices remained unchanged from April and are guaranteed until the end of July.

INDONESIA: Copra exports, May 1950 with comparisons
(Long tons)

Country	Copra distribution				
	Average 1935-39	1949 1/	Jan-May 1950 1/	May 1949 1/	May 1950 1/
Canada	-	3,651	-	850	-
Mexico	12,614	-	-	-	-
United States	3,909	13,101	-	5,000	-
Belgium	8,053	4,000	-	-	-
Czechoslovakia	4,896	2,399	-	-	-
Denmark	72,375	5,000	-	-	-
France	12,748	-	-	-	-
Western Germany	64,674	12,842	25,000	1,968	6,372
Italy	23,103	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	133,841	179,872	71,576	9,848	25,122
Norway	31,810	3,000	-	-	-
Poland	1,422	1,500	-	-	-
Sweden	6,886	10,499	-	-	-
Switzerland	17	1,500	2,000	-	-
United Kingdom	412	40,922	-	3,150	-
Japan	6,180	7,000	-	-	-
Singapore	107,285	15,627	-	-	-
Union of South Africa	-	2,500	-	1,250	-
Others	17,160	-	-	-	-
Total	507,385	2/303,413	3/ 98,576	22,066	31,494

1/ Preliminary. 2/ As of June, total includes shipments to Singapore.
3/ March exports revised - see text.

Copra Board, Jakarta.

U.S. FATS AND OILS IMPORTS GREATER THAN IN 1949

United States April 1950 imports of specified fats and oils (as oil) were 86.8 million pounds and the January-April total was 344.6 million. Both figures represent about 98 percent of all imported fats and oils in the respective periods. April imports were 77 percent greater than in 1949, but the 4-month total was only 15 percent greater. Copra and coconut oil account for more than one-half of the imports.

UNITED STATES: Imports 1/ of specified fats and oils,
April 1950 with comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Average 1935-39	1949 2/	Jan.-April 1950 2/	April 1949 2/	April 1950 2/
Babassu kernels..	1,000 lbs.	3/	4/ 46,591	28,336	2,192	5,412
Babassu oil......	" "	5/ 346	3,565	1,676	0	0
Castor beans.....	" "	132,924	289,936	93,361	14,260	26,523
Castor oil.......	" "	226	10,618	13,154	690	3,218
Flaxseed.........	" bu.	18,470	148	2	13	0
Linseed oil......	" lbs.	713	1,317	64	210	63
Copra............	Short tons	230,000	428,230	128,781	22,677	29,092
Coconut oil......	1,000 lbs.	342,717	4/ 107,860	6/ 37,516	2,330	7,787
Oiticica oil.....	" "	5/ 7,673	8,940	2,009	110	1,823
Olive oil						
Edible........	" "	62,811	4/ 20,048	18,221	935	5,595
Inedible.......	" "	35,448	3,124	284	23	43
Palm oil.........	" "	321,482	82,340	6,820	1,805	3,081
Sesame seed......	" "	58,425	10,818	3,531	1,306	791
Tea seed oil.....	" "	13,159	141	0	0	0
Tucum kernels....	" "	5/ 9,810	30,183	8,708	9,721	5,510
Tung oil.........	" "	123,190	64,968	21,675	2,482	9,812
Sesame oil						
Edible.........	" "	10,651	255	193	3	3
Rapeseed oil						
Denatured 4/...	" "	11,063	3,905	1,464	218	426
Herring oil 4/...	" "	10	16,210	6,036	58	246

1/ Imports for consumption. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Not separately classified in Foreign Commerce and Navigation. 4/ Revised. 5/ Average of less than 5 years. 6/ As a result of a revision in January 1950 accumulative figures for January-March should read 29,728.

Compiled from official sources.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC INCREASES IMPORT DUTIES ON EDIBLE FATS

The Government of the Dominican Republic promulgated on May 20, 1950, Law No. 2386, subsequently published in the Gaceta Oficial May 24, 1950, which increased the rate of import duties on various edible fats and oils and related products. The most significant increases were made in the duties on imported lard, raised from a rate of 15 to 50 cents per kilo (7 to 23 cents per pound); tallow from 6 to 20 cents per kilo (3 to 9 cents per pound); and other vegetable oils, from 18 to 50 cents per kilo (8 to 23 cents per pound). The purpose of the legislation is to reduce the importation of edible fats and thereby stimulate the demand for peanut oil produced at the factory of the Sociedad Industrial Dominica, C. por A., at Ciudad Trujillo.

U. K. TRADE IN SPECIFIED FATS AND OILS

The following tables show the United Kingdom exports and imports of specified fats and oils, January-March 1950 with comparisons.

UNITED KINGDOM: Exports of specified fats and oils, January-March 1950 with comparisons

Commodity	1938	1949 1/	January-March	
			1949 1/	1950 1/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Margarine	5,296	12,707	2,685	3,156
Animal oils, including fish oils refined	9,477	3,338	1,345	33
Vegetable oils other than essential, refined	28,498	10,088	3,494	2,251
Shortening, including lard compound and compound cooking fat	8,297	9,986	3,291	2,250
Animal fats and oils except marine animal oils	53,341	8,021	2,336	1,037
Fish and marine animal oils, unrefined	12,004	3,649	116	1,841
Soap	81,338	96,518	19,579	20,648

1/ Preliminary.

Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom - March 1950.

UNITED KINGDOM: Imports of specified fats and oils, January-March 1950 with comparisons

Commodity	1938	1949 1/	January-March 1949 1/	January-March 1950 1/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Cottonseed	1,390,010	310,742	35,979	19,884
Cottonseed oil, unrefined	11,800	27,577	10,512	4,343
Peanuts:				
In the shell	18,285	167,041	57,931	62,996
Shelled	712,826	769,633	215,587	228,063
Soybeans	220,770	64,447	7,166	3,026
Soybean oil, unrefined	7,188	381	2/	2/
Stillingia oil (Tallow seed oil) raw	3/	5,374	1,391	437
Sunflower and safflower seed oil	2	46,782	29,382	10,857
Olive oil, unrefined	10,667	2/	2/	2/
Olive oil, refined	9,851	7,697	6,966	4/
Copra	254,625	239,326	16,632	67,364
Coconut oil, unrefined	79,865	121,182	15,384	7,517
Coconut oil, refined	5,843	2/	2/	2/
Palm kernels	299,022	1,033,462	194,237	213,992
Palm oil, unrefined	294,491	473,388	75,822	132,664
Peanut oil, unrefined	3,456	15,584	7,573	1,004
Flaxseed	619,042	185,544	78,624	5,710
Linseed oil	42,184	190,902	21,708	3,828
Castor beans	71,221	8,391	7,764	2,332
Castor oil	7,654	0	0	374
Rapeseed	47,374	2/	2/	2/
Rapeseed oil	309	222	2/	2/
Tung oil	17,111	28,195	7,903	1,888
Other oilseeds	16,851	87,546	24,942	13,458
Other vegetable oils, refined	16,255	1,803	1,420	1,674
Other vegetable oils, unrefined	9,003	59,640	12,239	2,574
Margarine	12,196	0	0	0
Oleo-margarine and oleo oil	16,502	2/	2/	2/
Lard	161,383	77,497	182	4,096
Butter 5/	1,066,006	713,332	201,138	228,006
Tallow:				
Unrefined	54,499	68,143	9,867	20,500
Refined	46,789	52,250	8,658	15,412
Whale oil, unrefined	505,543	308,188	101.956	67,644
Other animal oils, including fish oil, refined	66,570	6,913	1,676	1,847
Other fish and marine oils, unrefined	44,551	45,929	14,072	1,201
Soap	19,831	803	0	0

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Not shown separately in monthly publication. 3/ Not separately classified prior to 1948. 4/ Less than .5 ton. 5/ There were 8.9 million pounds of butter re-exported in 1938 and 7.3 million pounds in 1949.

Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom - March 1950.

INTERNATIONAL OIL CULTURE FEDERATION MEETS AT TUNIS

The General Committee of the International Oil Culture Federation (Federation Internationale d'Oleiculture - FIO) met at Tunis from May 15-20. Eight countries, namely, Algeria, France, Greece, Morocco, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and Tunisia were represented by delegates. In response to an invitation addressed to the Secretary of Agriculture from the FIO, the United States was represented by an unofficial observer. Of the countries represented at the FIO conference held in Madrid last February (see Foreign Crops and Markets, March 6, 1950), Egypt, Lebanon, Israel, and Syria were not represented at Tunisia.

The following protocols were signed:

(1) A General Agreement reiterating the justification for an FIO organization; giving powers to its President to seek recognition from the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and to attempt to gain for FIO the same relationship with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as has the Office Internationale du Vin, and calling for the establishment of an International Oil Culture Fund to finance the stabilization of the olive oil market and a reorganization of FIO.

(2) A Mediterranean Agreement calling for the constitution of an Oil Council composed of members of the Direction Committee of FIO and representatives of importing and exporting countries; the establishment by the Oil Council of an estimate on production, consumption, exports, and surplus of olive oil preceding each harvest, and a study of the elements affecting the basic price of oils and attempting to maintain the equilibrium of Mediterranean production.

In addition to the General Agreement and the Mediterranean Agreement a Resolution was signed by all participating countries which further developed the functions of the Board of International Arbitration of Olive Oils (BAIHO), and called for the establishment of a Commission of World Advertising. It also granted the Secretariat General authority to study the unification of methods of analysis of olive oil as presented by the Tunisian delegation with a view to adoption of these measures at the Thirteenth International Oilculture Congress to be held in Spain on November 15.

The Oil Council created by the Mediterranean Agreement will meet in its first assembly at the beginning of September 1950 in Nice, France.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

INDIA'S WINTER GRAIN CROPS LARGER

The 1950 harvest of fall-sown grains in the Indian Union is larger than the 1949 production, according to the American Embassy at New Delhi. The wheat crop is privately estimated at about 217 million bushels, compared with the final official estimate of 202 million bushels a year ago. The current estimate is, however, still somewhat below average. Both acreage and yields were below average, though larger than the 1949 figures. The first official estimate places the wheat acreage at 22.1 million acres, compared with 21.1 million a year ago and a prewar average of 25.5 million acres.

Barley, the other winter grain, is estimated at 117 million bushels, 10 percent above the 1949 harvest and 30 percent above average. The gain over last year is due to increased yields, with acreage virtually unchanged from last year's area of 7.6 million acres. Barley acreage, however, has expanded considerably from the 1935-39 period, when it averaged 5.8 million acres. Harvesting of winter grains normally lasts from March to May. Summer crops, corn, sorghums and millets are planted when the monsoon rains begin in June and July. The area planted to these crops that are so important in this area will largely depend on the timeliness and extent of the rains. The area planted to these crops in 1949 was about 69 million acres, including some fall-sown sorghums that are not reportedly separately.

MEXICO REPORTS LARGE WHEAT CROP

A near-record wheat crop is forecast for Mexico this year, according to a report from the American Embassy at Mexico City. Harvesting is nearing completion, and the outturn is expected to be about 19.3 million bushels. That would be 12 percent larger than the good 1949 crop and about a third larger than production during 1935-39.

The increase in the crop is attributed to increased acreage and above-average yields. Larger yields are credited in part to better quality of seed planted in some districts. Improved varieties of seed under the seed improvement program represent new hybrids selected from tested strains that have been developed for resistance to rust and drought as well as for early maturity, larger yields and better quality.

Present prospects indicate that yields may be about the same as in 1949 when they averaged about 15 percent above the 1935-39 period. Wheat acreage is estimated at 1.5 million acres, compared with 1.3 million in 1949. The quality of the grain is said to be high, generally.

The Federal Government has guaranteed growers a minimum price the equivalent of $1.52 per bushel for an indefinite period. This, with no maximum price set, is intended to stimulate production. Press reports speak of the probability of being independent of imported wheat in a few years. Imports of wheat for the 5 years ended 1948 averaged about 11 million bushels. Most of the imports were from the United States. The annual import quota for Mexico under the International Wheat Agreement is approximately 9.2 million bushels.

IRAN EXPECTS NEAR-AVERAGE WHEAT CROP

The present outlook in Iran is for a wheat crop of about 68 million bushels, 5 percent below the 1935-39 average but somewhat larger than the 1949 harvest. If favorable conditions continue, the barley crop is expected to be about 34 million bushels. Such a harvest would be, like wheat, 5 percent less than the prewar average but well above the 1949 crop. Acreage of the two grains is about 5 percent larger than in 1949 and yield prospects better than a year ago.

In nearly all parts of the country the condition of wheat and barley planting is reported much better than at the comparable period of 1949. This is largely due to favorable winter and spring weather. In most regions the winter was milder than usual and conditions in the spring favored crop development.

Grain harvesting is nearing completion in southern areas but in northern provinces, especially Azerbaijan, the harvest will not be finished until late August or early September. Azerbaijan, the principal grain producing province, reported a serious reduction in fall grain acreage because of a shortage of seed. This was partly made up by increased spring seeding, however, and good growing weather is believed to have brought prospects above those of a year ago.

BRAZIL SETS MINIMUM PRICE FOR 1950 WHEAT CROP

Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture has fixed minimum prices that flour mills will be required to pay for domestically-produced wheat of the 1950-51 crop. The basic price is the equivalent of $3.68 per bushel in U. S. currency, with premiums and discounts for wheat of greater or less weight per unit volume. The minimum prices apply at interior embarkation points nearest to production zones.

The announced prices are approximately the same as those fixed for last year's crop. The maintenance of the comparatively high rate is expected to act as an incentive to increased wheat acreage because of considerable reduction in prices of corn and rice recently. The early announcement of the guaranteed price gives producers an opportunity to plan this year's planting program taking into account the relative profits of the various crops. The wheat crop is generally seeded in March-July.

The domestic crop supplies only a small part of Brazil's wheat requirements, even though production has more than doubled since the 1935-39 average of 5 million bushels. Total imports of wheat and flour in 1935-39 averaged about 37 million bushels and in 1948, the latest complete year for which data are available, imports were about 32 million bushels. During the current marketing season, Brazil's wheat import requirement has been supplied almost entirely by Argentina. Private trade reports show Argentine exports to Brazil from July 1, 1949 to June 8, 1950 were 37 million bushels.

BURMESE GOVERNMENT RECOVERS RICE STOCKS

The Burmese Government reportedly recovered between 300 and 450 million pounds additional of rice and rice products in the Prome district when it recaptured that area on May 19. Apparently the Government had counted on recovering these stocks in making its rice commitments for 1950, since it actually had sold some 200 million pounds in excess of its visible surplus.

Brisk rice buying is taking place in Prome with growers and middlemen getting prices in excess of the Government's established schedule, according to reports reaching Rangoon. The principal problem is distribution to markets and ports.

The Communist insurgents destroyed important railway and motor road bridges and river boats prior to their evacuation of the area, making it extremely difficult to reestablish communication between the Prome district and the coastal areas. The Government has directed the Railway Board to give the highest priority to the restoration of the destroyed bridges to facilitate the shipment of the crop as soon as possible.

PANAMA'S RICE PRODUCTION SUFFICIENT FOR NEEDS

Panama's 1949-50 rice crop is estimated at 174 million pounds of rough rice, an increase of 6 percent from the final estimate of 164 million pounds a year earlier, and 141 percent more than the prewar average (1935-36/39-40) of 72 million pounds. Acreage increased from 134,000 acres to 141,000 acres.

Compared with the importation of an average of 11 million pounds of milled rice from 1944 to 1948, only 440,000 pounds was imported in 1949. Domestic production reportedly is sufficient to provide all domestic requirements in 1950.

While the production increase is due largely to a widespread interest in rice as a money crop, much of the gain has been centered in Chiriqui Province, where concerns have begun the mechanization of production. Trials by the Government in the last 2 years in this type of production have demonstrated that modern American technical methods under irrigation will pay. One grower is arranging to change operations to irrigation methods on some 2,000 acres. In addition, the Government reportedly has a project for irrigation embracing some 2,500 acres of irrigable rice land.

PARAGUAY IMPLEMENTS PLANS TO INCREASE RICE PRODUCTION

The Cereals Service of the Paraguay Department of Agriculture announced recently that 330,000 pounds of Zenith rice-seed arrivals from the United States are being held for the October-November planting of next year's crop. This seed, together with 330,000 pounds of selected seed from local production, reportedly will be ample for the seeding of the acreage next season.

Authorities believe the Zenith variety is adaptable to the climate in Paraguay, and efforts, therefore, are being made to choose fertile land areas for initial plantings in order to obtain sufficient seed for the acreage in 1952-53. Present plans for the 1951-52 season call for the planting of 2,500 acres with 330,000 pounds of seed, from which a total yield is anticipated of 11 million pounds, or 4,460 pounds per acre. Of this volume, 6.6 million pounds of seed will be used for 50,000 acres in the 1952-53 crop year.

The areas chosen for seed production have superior soil, and it may be that the per-acre yields will approach the anticipated goal, provided growing conditions are favorable. With the strides being made by Paraguayan authorities in implementing the rice plan by using improved seeds, planting high-yielding varieties, and possibly obtaining machinery for irrigation and harvesting, it appears that the rice production of Paraguay may be increased appreciably.

BURMA'S RICE EXPORTS REDUCED SHARPLY

Rice exports from Burma during the January-May period totaled 955 million pounds, or 39 percent less than the 1,555 million pounds during the corresponding period of 1949. June shipments are expected to be between 350 and 450 million pounds, bringing trade during the first half of 1950 to possibly 1,400 million pounds.

BURMA: Rice exports, January-May 1949
and 1950

Month	1949	1950	Month	1949	1950
	Million pounds	Million pounds		Million pounds	Million pounds
First Quarter			Second Quarter		
January.......	218	33	April.......	230	247
February......	440	84	May.........	322	371
March.........	345	220	Jan.-May....	1,555	955
Total.......	1,003	337			

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

NEAR-RECORD COTTON CROP EXPECTED IN EGYPT

The 1950-51 Egyptian cotton crop is estimated by private sources in Egypt at more than 2,050,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross weight), with a possibility that it may equal the record crop of 2,281,000 bales reported in 1937-38.

Growing conditions have been favorable thus far this year and the plants are more advanced in maturity than at this date a year ago. The 1949-50 crop estimate was recently revised upward to 1,796,000 equivalent bales of 500 pounds. A large-scale shift in 1950 from cultivation of Karnak to Zagora, Ashmouni, and Giza 30 was reported earlier (see Foreign Crops and Markets, May 1 and June 12, 1950).

The large cotton supply outlook for 1950-51 in Egypt is in sharp contrast with the current short supply position that has enabled speculators to corner the market for Ashmouni and Zagora. Stocks of all cotton in Egypt on May 1, 1950, were estimated at about 800,000 bales, including 149,000 bales (all Karnak) held by the government and about 100,000 bales (mostly Ashmouni and Zagora) held by local mills.

Prices rose slightly in February when an effort was made to corner the futures market for Ashmouni and Zagora. This was unsuccessful but renewed attempts to corner the April and June futures contracts may have been more successful. Current trade reports from Egypt, however, state that there are indications that these recent efforts may prove to have been partly nullified by reactions to high prices on the part of mills (both foreign and domestic) using Egyptian cotton and by the fact that stocks held by these mills should be sufficiently high to enable most of them to postpone new purchases until the new crop reaches the market in October. Also, the existence of considerable stocks of Giza 30 in Egypt that could be tendered legally against the Ashmouni contract has some restraining effect on the rise in futures quotations for Ashmouni.

Quotations for Good Ashmouni at Alexandria averaged about 75 tallaris per kantar (43.5 cents a pound) in January 1950. As a result of the short supply and market manipulation, these quotations rose rapidly in April and early May to a peak of 154.5 tallaris (89.56 cents) on May 12 when the government intervened and fixed a ceiling at this level for the June contracts. Later the government reinstated restrictions on daily price fluctuations to 3 percent above or below the closing price of the previous day. Foreign buyers have remained out of the market during the past 6 weeks or more of rapidly rising prices. Stocks of Egyptian cotton abroad are adequate for 3 to 6 months and many mills usually shift to other growths when price ratios are too unfavorable.

Exports during August-April 1949-50 totaled nearly 1.4 million bales, compared with 1,135,000 for a similar period a year ago. Most of the increase was accounted for by Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands, France, and Eastern Europe. Some of the exports to France, Italy, and the Netherlands were believed to be involved in 2- or 3-way currency transactions to obtain goods from dollar areas for importation into Egypt. Under these conditions Egyptian cotton would be transshipped to other countries for ultimate consumption. Exports during May, June, and July may average considerably lower than those in earlier months because of the sharp rise in prices since last March.

MEXICO'S COTTON ACREAGE INCREASED AGAIN

The area planted to cotton in Mexico this year is estimated at 1,780,000 acres representing an increase of 23 percent over the 1,446,000 acres reported in 1949-50 and 70 percent higher than the 1948-49 estimate of 1,050,000 acres. The greatest increase in 1950 again has been reported from the Matamoros-Reynosa region where the present acreage is estimated at 791,000 acres, an increase of 28 percent. This area represents 44.5 percent of the total cotton acreage in Mexico this year and accounted for more than half of the cotton exported from Mexico last year.

An estimate of 272,000 acres in the Laguna area represents an increase of 28 percent and 297,000 in Mexicali represents a 12 percent increase. The 161,000 acres planted to cotton in the States of Sonora, Sinaloa, and Nayarit this year represents an increase of 55 percent. Most of it is fertile land being cultivated for the first time in 1950 under pump irrigation.

Growing conditions have been somewhat less favorable in 1950 than they were a year ago but an increase of 15 percent in production against the estimated 23 percent for acreage would result in a crop of about 1,150,000 bales. Last year's record crop was 985,000 bales Pink bollworm infestation was reported to be greater than in 1949, rain was insufficient this year and some damage was caused by high winds in April. Drought and heavy insect infestation were reported from all major producing areas. Twenty carloads of insecticides were recently imported for use this year.

Exports of cotton during August-March 1949-50 totaled 485,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross weight). Current reports indicate that the entire surplus from the 1949 crop has been exported or sold and awaiting shipment. Mill consumption averaged about 22,000 bales a month early this year and may be estimated at about 275,000 bales for 1949-50.

Prices of Mexican cotton during the current season averaged about 2 cents a pound under those for comparable grades of United States cotton delivered in foreign ports. Quotations for Mexican Middling 15/16 inch staple at Torreon averaged 27.48 U.S. cents a pound in April 1950 and declined slightly to 26.33 cents by June 1. The export tax remains at 15 percent of a fixed valuation of 3.85 pesos per kilogram (20.19 cents a pound), which is equivalent to 3.03 cents a pound. The valuation was reduced on August 4, 1949, from 5.40 pesos per kilogram (28.32 cents a pound) when the tax was equal to 4.25 cents.

COTTON CONSUMPTION INCREASING IN GREECE

Cotton consumption in Greece has been increasing due to greater demand for cotton textiles. Consumption in the first 8 months (August through March 1950) was reported at 58,900 bales (480 pounds net). Consumption over the entire 1949-50 season is estimated at 90,000 bales as compared to 80,000 to 85,000 bales annually for the past 3 seasons. A good crop in 1949, better security conditions, and political stability have stimulated domestic demand for cotton textiles this season.

Acreage planted to cotton this spring has been estimated at about 20 percent greater than last season. The increase was attributed to favorable prices received by farmers for their cotton last season, programs for seed improvement and insect control, and the installation of modern gins. If yields average about the same as last season a crop of about 85,000 bales can be expected. This would still be slightly short of expected requirements next season.

Greece imported 23,000 bales of cotton during the first 8 months of the current season, practically all from the United States. The Economic Cooperation Administration has allocated $9.6 million for the procurement of cotton for the Greek mills in 1949-50, which should be sufficient for the procurement of 60,000 bales. However, this may not all be moved by July 31, 1950. United States export statistics show that 29,000 bales had been shipped to Greece up to May 1, 1950.

COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS ON WORLD MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets converted at current rates of exchange.

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, and the U.S. gulf-port average

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1950	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria		Kantar			
Ashmouni, Good	6-15	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	(not	quoted)
Ashmouni, F.G.F.	"	"	"	(not	quoted)
Karnak, Good	"	"	"	74.65	43.27
Karnak, F.G.F.	"	"	"	68.65	39.79
Bombay		Candy			
Jarila, Fine	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	1/ 620.00	16.50
Broach Vijay, Fine	"	"	"	1/ 690.00	18.37
Karachi		Maund			
4F Punjab, S.G., Fine	6-14	82.28 lbs.	"	77.50	28.42
289F Sind, S.G., Fine	"	"	"	80.50	29.52
289F Punjab, S.G., Fine	"	"	"	82.50	30.25
Buenos Aires		Metric ton			
Type B	6-15	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	4300.00	40.36
Lima		Sp. quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5	6-14	101.4 lbs.	Sol	(not	quoted)
Pima, Type 1	"	"	"	(not	quoted)
Recife		Arroba			
Mata, Type 4	6-15	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	205.00	33.73
Sertao, Type 5	"	"	"	(not	available)
Sertao, Type 4	"	"	"	235.00	38.66
Sao Paulo					
Sao Paulo, Type 5	"	"	"	222.00	36.52
Torreon		Sp. quintal			
Middling, 15/16"	"	101.4 lbs.	Peso	231.00	26.33
Houston-Galveston-New Orleans av. Mid. 15/16"	"	Pound	Cent	XXXXX	33.42

Quotations of foreign markets reported by cable from U.S. Foreign Service posts abroad. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

1/ Nominal.

TROPICAL PRODUCTS

HAITI'S ESSENTIAL OILS INDUSTRY EXPANDING

One of the more significant developments in the recent economic history of Haiti has been the growth and organization of the essential oils industry. From a small shipment of 1,225 pounds in 1932-33, Haiti's exports of essential oils grew to 196,575 pounds valued at U.S. $313,523 in 1948-49. The immediate prospects are for a continued expansion of the industry, with Haiti becoming one of the more important producers of essential oils, according to the American Embassy in Port-au-Prince.

In 1932, Henry Ganot, an agronomist and specialist in essential oils from France, made the first distillations of the oil of petit-grain in Haiti. The research and experiments conducted by Ganot provided the foundation for Haiti's essential oils industry.

Although many of the raw materials for the essential oils of Haiti such as limes, vetivert, amyris, and bitter orange trees grow wild or are cultivated on thousands of small peasant farms, the distillation processes of most of the oils and the cultivation of lemongrass and citronella are in the hands of large operators, mainly the Dejoie Enterprises. These are modern operators who use mechanized, scientific methods of cultivation and distillation with a view to meeting world price competition.

The Dejoie Enterprises, headed by Louis Dejoie, a Haitian agronomist and agricultural engineer, claims to be the largest single producer of essential oils in the world. It now operates a 1,000-acre plantation of lime trees, and more than 3,000 acres planted to lemongrass, citronella, and vetivert, and it is planting 1,500 new acres in lemongrass and 300 new acres in citronella. This firm has 15 lime distilleries located in various parts of the country. It owns and operates 3 large distillation plants, varying from 8 to 16 stills, for the distilling of lemongrass, amyris, vetivert, and citronella, and now is constructing a fourth plant with 24 stills.

Haiti is the chief source of United States imports of oil of vetivert, used in perfumes, cosmetics, and soaps. It is an important source of lemongrass oil, distilled oil of limes, and amyris oil. Practically the entire production of essential oils in Haiti is exported to the United States. In 1948-49 (October 1 to September 30), Haiti exported 196,575 pounds of essential oils, composed of 91,090 pounds of amyris oil, 53,296 pounds of lemongrass oil, 22,965 pounds of distilled lime oil, 21,248 pounds of vetivert oil, 4,810 pounds of petit-grain oil, 3,089 pounds of citronella oil, 51 pounds of neroli oil, and 26 pounds of basil oil.

HAITI: Exports of essential oils, 1948-49
with comparisons.

Essential Oils	1941-42	1944-45	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Amyris	-	22,523	38,830	22,743	91,090
Basil	31	207	13	26	26
Citronella	-	410	399	2,853	3,089
Lemongrass	4,614	10,456	52,696	73,682	53,296
Lime, distilled	5,282	22,218	11,173	13,146	22,965
Neroli	157	1,190	26	31	51
Petit-grain	5,035	6,795	8,239	19,195	4,810
Vetivert	-	7,756	21,354	4,515	21,248
Total	15,119	71,555	132,730	136,191	196,575

National Bank of Haiti.

INDONESIA FORECASTS HIGHER COFFEE PRODUCTION

Indonesia's 1950 coffee harvest has been officially forecast at about 585,000 bags of 132.28 pounds each, according to the American Embassy in Djakarta. This is about one-third larger than the latest estimate of 440,000 bags for the 1949 harvest, but considerably lower than the annual average prewar (1935-39) output of 1,961,000 bags.

The 1950 coffee harvest is expected to consist of approximately 60,000 bags of Arabica and the balance Robusta. The native crop is expected to account for 400,000 bags, and estate production is forecast at 185,000 bags.

Indonesian coffee production is still insufficient to meet the country's own requirements. However, in view of the great need for foreign exchange and the larger coffee crop forecast for 1950, the Indonesian Government is expected to permit the export in 1950 of 100,000 to 125,000 bags.

LATE NEWS

Norway 500; Switzerland 1,000; Trieste 1,025; Israel 500; total 35,713.

Coconut oil shipments were: United States - Pacific 200, Atlantic 3,056; total 3,256. Copra export price $162.50 per short ton c.i.f. Pacific coast.

- - - - - -

Regulations governing the 1950 crop of wheat in Denmark, introduce basic changes from existing legislation. According to its terms growers are not required to surrender all their wheat as in past seasons. Under the new order the part of the crop not fit for human consumption may be kept on the farm for feed, up to a limit of 3 percent of the total crop. Growers must surrender, however, all the wheat that the government may ask of them. In return for the wheat thus surrendered, the grower will receive cash instead of the equivalent amount of coarse grain, which is the rule at present. Wheat bread now consists of wheat flour only, milled at an 80 percent extraction rate.

- - - - - -

Canadians report the outbreak of Newcastle disease in British Columbian poultry flocks that has caused a loss of about 268,000 birds in 172 flocks. Turkey flocks in the Fraser Valley and on Vancouver Island have seriously been affected. Officials emphasize the need for complete cooperation of poultrymen.